

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2676

By Mr. Torrasi of North Andover, petition of David M. Torrasi and others for legislation to promote volunteer dentistry in the Commonwealth. Public Health.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

David M. Torrasi	Barbara A. L'Italien
Susan C. Tucker	Martin J. Walsh
David B. Sullivan	Kathleen M. Teahan

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO VOLUNTEER DENTISTRY.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Said chapter 112 is hereby further amended by  
2 inserting after section 45A, as so appearing, the following  
3 section:—

4     Section 45B. (a) The board may grant or renew a certificate of  
5 registration without payment of a fee to a dentist qualified for reg-  
6 istration or renewal of the same under this chapter; provided, that  
7 the dentist has agreed to restrict his practice to that of a volunteer  
8 practitioner in a specified free care program operated by a non-  
9 profit organization. The scope of practice of a dentist whose cer-  
10 tificate of registration is granted or renewed pursuant to this  
11 section may be restricted as the board may provide by regulation.

12     (b) In order to qualify for a license for volunteer practice, an  
13 applicant shall meet the requirements for a regular license under  
14 this chapter, in addition to the requirements set forth below. An  
15 applicant shall submit to the board a completed application on a  
16 form prescribed by the board and any additional information that  
17 the board requests. An applicant shall agree to the conditions on  
18 practice promulgated by the board.

19 (c) The board's application form for a license for volunteer  
20 practice shall include a request for the following information:

21 (1) a written statement from the applicant outlining the scope  
22 and duration of services to be provided by the applicant;

23 (2) a written statement from the director of the applicant's pro-  
24 posed work site outlining the scope and duration of the applicant's  
25 responsibilities; and

26 (3) evidence satisfactory to the board that, in the proposed work  
27 site, the volunteer dentist will be serving without compensation  
28 and providing free dental care to a low-income community, or a  
29 community with limited access to dental care.

30 (d) If an applicant has met all of the requirements of this  
31 section to the satisfaction of the board, the applicant shall be  
32 granted a license for volunteer practice and entitled to a certificate  
33 of registration signed by the chairman and the secretary of the  
34 board. A licensee engaged in volunteer practice may practice den-  
35 tistry only at a work site approved in conjunction with his license  
36 application; shall be subject to the same conditions and responsi-  
37 bilities as a regular licensee; and may not accept any compensa-  
38 tion for the practice of dental medicine.

1 SECTION 2. The board of registration in dentistry shall pro-  
2 mulgate regulations to carry out section 2 not later than 3 months  
3 following the effective date of this act.

1 SECTION 3. The commissioner of public health, or his  
2 designee, shall study the impact of the Federal Volunteer Protec-  
3 tion Act of 1997 and the Free Clinics Federal Tort Claims Act  
4 Medical Malpractice Program on health care volunteers in the  
5 commonwealth. The commissioner shall review ways in which the  
6 commonwealth may act to provide legal counsel and defense to  
7 volunteers who may be eligible for the protections afforded in the  
8 Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 or the Free Clinics Federal Tort  
9 Claims Act Medical Malpractice Program. The commissioner  
10 shall report the results of the review by filing the same with the  
11 joint committee on health care, together with recommendation for  
12 legislation, if any, by December 31, 2004.